

famed as one of the most delicious fruits of the Tropics, some writers describing it as 'perhaps the most luscious fruit in the world, partaking of the flavor of the strawberry and the grape.' The delicate white juicy pulp surrounding and adhering to the seed is the part eaten. In striking contrast to it is the dense, thick, reddish rind, containing tannic acid and a dye. The tree is of very slow growth and does not usually come into bearing till about 9 or 10 years old. The essential conditions for it are a hot climate and deep, rich, well-drained soil. Propagation is usually by seed, but may also be effected by gootee or layering. Sow seeds in pots under cover. The plants are of very slow growth, taking about two years to become large enough for planting out, being then only about 12 inches high." (*Macmillan, Handbook of Tropical Gardening and Planting*, pp. 164 and 165.)

See S. P. I. No. 43446 for further description.

43482. SIMABA CEDRON Planch. Simaroubaceæ. Cedron.

From Cristobal, Canal Zone. Presented by Mr. O. W. Barrett. Received October 18, 1916.

"Mr. Sandberg believes that these nuts are high in tannic-acid content and also possess some good medicinal qualities, since they are used in several native remedies about here. The tree reaches some 15 to 25 feet in height and bears great quantities of these brownish fruits, consisting of the large seed and a layer, 5 to 15 mm. thick, of reddish yellow flesh, bitter and acrid." (*Barrett*.)

A short, erect, graceful tree with a trunk about 6 inches in diameter and large, alternate, pinnate leaves, composed of 20 or more pairs of leaflets. The white flowers occur in long racemes, similar to those of *Simaba trichilioides*. The oval fruits, which are 6 cm. (2½ inches) long, are edible. A bitter principle is found throughout the plant, but only the seeds are used medicinally. These seeds are inodorous but intensely bitter and are used as a remedy for snake bite, hydrophobia, and in treating fevers and dysentery. If more than 25 or 30 grains are given in a single dose, death may result. This tree is found in Colombia, Panama, and Costa Rica. (Adapted from *Héraud, Nouveau Dictionnaire des Plantes Médicinales*, pp. 563-565, and from *Hooker's Journal of Botany*, vol. 5, p. 566.)

43483 and 43484.

From Villahermosa, Tabasco, Mexico. Presented by Mr. G. Itié, director, Agricultural Experiment Station. Received October 24, 1916. Quoted notes by Mr. Itié unless otherwise stated.

43483. ACROCOMIA MEXICANA Karw. Phœnicaceæ. Cocoyol palm.

"*Coyol de sabana* or *cocoyol*. The inhabitants use the fruit in making a dessert, cooking it with brown sugar. Rings are made from the shells."

A prickly palm, about 20 feet high, with a brown woolly trunk up to 1½ feet thick and terminal leaves from 6 to 8 feet in length. The sheathing bases of the leaves are armed with long black spines, and the spathe is very spiny. The yellow flowers are very odorous, and the round fruits are about an inch in diameter. This palm is found in the cooler regions of Mexico up to 3,000 feet above the sea and is said to be hardy at Santa Barbara, Calif. (Adapted from *Mueller, Select Extra-Tropical Plants*, p. 19, from *Bailey, Standard Cyclopedia of Horticulture*, vol. 1, p. 211, and from *Martius, Historia Naturalis Palmarum*, p. 285.)